

neck, more or less blotched with blue; rump, immaculate: bill, black: iris, dull brown: legs, fleshy-grey: sexes exactly alike: structure typical: tail long and deeply forked: size of *H. Rustica*.

Remark. This is the common *Swallow* of the central region, a household creature remaining with us for seven or eight months of the year.

Species 2nd. *Rupicola*, nobis.

Earthy grey brown: below, from the chin to the vent (exclusively), rufescent white: legs fleshy grey: bill black: iris brown: sexes alike: larger than the last,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  by  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and weight  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz.: structure typical: wings exceeding the short and subfurcate tail. Habitat, the central and northern regions: not migratory: adheres to the mountains, preferring rocky situations.

N. B. The remaining Hirundine birds of *Népal* are *Hirundo Rustica* and the Sand-Martin; both of which, but especially the latter, are common.

IV.—Description of the Shell and Animal of *Nematura*, a new Genus of Mollusca, inhabiting situations subject to alternations of fresh and brackish water. By W. H. BENSON, Esq. B. C. S.

*Animal*.—Caput tentaculis duobus setaceis oculis posticè prope bases tentaculorum sessilibus; proboscide elongatâ, cylindraceâ, extensili.

Pes ovato-oblongus, medio ventricosus, posticè angustatus, acuminatus, processu brevi filiformi subito desinens; anticè expansus, medio profundè emarginatus; alâ utroque latere porrectâ latè angustatâ, acuminatâ.

Testâ ovatâ, ventricosâ, à latere compressâ, ultimo anfractu insuper aperturam angulato, deflexo. Aperturâ integrâ constrictâ, orbiculari, suprâ vix angulatâ; peritremate acuto leviter intus incrassato. Operculo tenui in spiram planam convoluto.

The snout is capable of great extension, and the animal is able to lick the summit of the shell with its extremity, which is armed within the mouth with a pair of strong vertical jaws, each apparently consisting of two pieces: these are constantly in motion in a vertical direction. The centre of the foot has a rounded peltate appearance, occasioned by the adaptation of its form to that of the operculum, which is visible through the transparent foot when viewed on the under side. The singular short filiform process attached to the extremity of the foot appears to be the termination of a nerve or minute canal, which is seen extending directly up the centre of the foot until it is lost under the operculum. The excrement is voided from the right side of the animal.

The shell is compressed laterally in a direction parallel to the axis and to the plane of the aperture, as in *scarabus*, but the prominent edges are rounded, and the former lips do not leave a ridge or keel at each semi-turn as in that genus. The sudden deflexion of the last whorl above the aperture, and the consequent depression and constriction of the aperture is a singular feature in the shell, and, in conjunction with its compressed form, led to my pronouncing the species to be a type of a distinct genus before I became acquainted with the animal or the operculum.

The first specimens which I saw, were shewn to me by Mr. CROFT, who found them destitute of inhabitant or operculum in the *Sunderbans* east of the *Jabuna* river. He was unable to state whether they were land or water shells. Their occurrence in the delta of the Ganges so near to *Calcutta*, spurred me to diligence in the search after the species, and, about a couple of months subsequently, I discovered it alive between high and low water mark in pools, and on wet mud recently left by the tide in the river *Hooghly*, immediately opposite to the Esplanade. Here they were accompanied by *Melania lirata*\* and *Melania pyramis*\*. Dr. PEARSON subsequently found them in the mud deposited by the aqueduct which passes in front of the Town Hall. Here we found them accompanied by *assiminia fasciata*, and by small specimens of *novaculina gangetica*. I also took specimens attached to a floating bamboo in the Salt-water Lake in company with *Neritina depressa*.

Though found between high and low water mark like *assiminia fasciata*, *nematura* does not otherwise resemble it in its habits, as it never attempts to creep out of the water in which it is placed, but ascending to the surface swims with the foot reversed in the same manner as *lymnæa*, *planorbis*, *paludina*, and the smaller *melania* use to do.

I have named the species on which the genus is founded

*Nematura*† *Delta*. Testâ ovato-conicâ, à lateribus tumidâ, lutescente, ultimo anfractu ventricoso, majori omnibus obliquè minutè striatis; spirâ brevi; apice acuto; umbilico evanescente. Long. 0.25 poll.

\* *Melania lirata*, described as species D, and *melania pyramis* as species B, in *Gleanings in Science*, vol. ii. p. 22. Species A of that paper, I have elsewhere more fully described as *M. variabilis*, and I have named species C *M. elegans*.

† LAMARCK has a genus of insects named *Nemoura* from  $\nu\eta\mu\alpha$  filum and  $\omicron\upsilon\rho\acute{\alpha}$  canda; but as he neglected the rules of composition the appellation of the present genus, while it expresses a singular feature in the animal, will run no risk of being confounded with that of the eminent naturalist.